

1-7471

FILED 1956

Honorable Joseph Campbell  
The Comptroller General  
of the United States  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

For the effective fulfillment of its functions, this Agency requires an increasingly greater number of personnel who are proficient in one or more foreign languages. Future requirements that are not susceptible to an accurate current analysis may suddenly generate a demand far in excess of the Agency's capabilities. Experience has shown that such demands cannot be satisfactorily met from sources outside the Agency. Either the source is not sufficient or there is not enough time to make the source available and still observe proper security restrictions. In order to meet future needs, I propose to establish a language resources program.

Under the program, the relative difficulties of various languages will be evaluated and standards of competence in their use will be established. In order to provide the necessary incentive among Agency personnel, I propose to make certain payments for acquiring competence in a language and additional periodic payments for maintaining such competence at fixed levels of proficiency.

Counsel has advised me that the proposed payments might be made under the Government Employees Incentive Awards Act of 1954 (68 Stat. 1113, 5 U.S.C. 2123 (a) (1954)) but that there may be a question as to whether they would be the type of payment intended by Congress under that Act. The pertinent provision states:

"(a) The head of each department is authorized to pay cash awards to, and to incur necessary expenses for the honorary recognition of, civilian officers and employees of the Government who by their suggestions, inventions, superior accomplishments, or other personal efforts

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contribute to the efficiency, economy, or other improvement of Government operations or who perform special acts or services in the public interest in connection with or related to their official employment."

However, there appears to be sufficient authority under the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 [53 Stat. 200, 50 U.S.C. 403 (1949)] within the language of Sec. 10(a) which provides in pertinent part:

"Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, sums made available to the Agency by appropriation or otherwise may be expended for purposes necessary to carry out the Agency's functions including ..."

It is my firm belief that the program is necessary to carry out the Agency's functions.

Before undertaking the program described above, your opinion is requested as to whether such payments can properly be made to Agency personnel under the authority of

- (a) The Government Employees Incentive Awards Act of 1954, or
- (b) The Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949.

Sincerely,

/s/

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

CONCURRENCE:

SIGNED

FEB 15 1956

*for* L. A. White  
Deputy Director  
(Support)

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*Subject*